

Lake Mendota Spring Fyke Netting – 2002

Fish sampling on the Madison Chain follows a 5 year rotation. Every year, 1 lake receives a **COMPREHENSIVE** survey, and the other lakes receive spring and fall **INDEX** sampling. Comprehensive surveys combine intensive spring netting efforts and spring and fall electro-fishing runs to cover the entire lake. Comprehensive surveys target walleye, northern pike, and musky and provide insight on the adult component of those fisheries. Comp surveys are used to make population estimates. Index sampling uses only electro-fishing directed at a selected sites in spring and fall. Index sampling monitors bass, panfish, and young -of-year fish most effectively.

Our purpose is to describe the size and condition of major fish populations of recreational interest, assess regulation, and suggest necessary management actions.

These brief summaries represent the most recent data and comparisons to the previous survey. Questions can be directed to: Kurt Welke, Fisheries Manager for Dane County, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711. Phone: 608-273-5946, E-mail:

Kurt.welke@dnr.state.wi.us. This information is also posted at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/fish/pages/reports/final.shtml>

2002

Northern Pike:

Total captured: 615
Average Length: 24.6 in.
Length range: 7.1 - 44.4 in.
% Legal (>40"): 0.8
Population Estimate 0.64 / acre

Walleye:

Total captured: 3,356
Average Length: 17.4 in.
Length Range: 9.6 - 29.6 in.
% Legal (>18"): 27.7
Population Estimate 1.76 / acre

Largemouth Bass:

Total captured: 664
Average Length: 10.8 in.
Length Range: 5.0 - 22.0 in.
% Legal (>18") 10.5

Smallmouth Bass:

Total captured: 62
Average Length: 13.8 in.
Length Range: 11.3 - 17.0 in.

Channel Catfish:

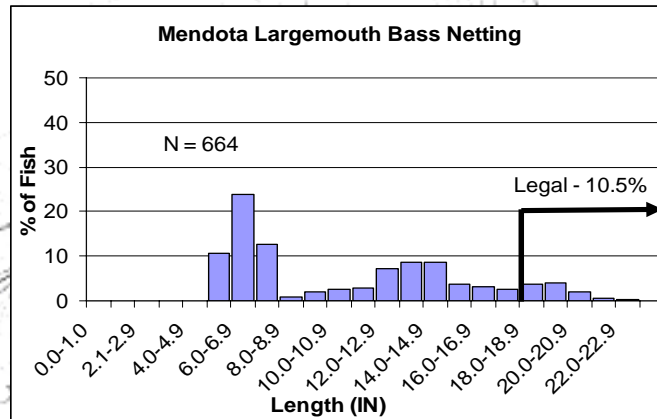
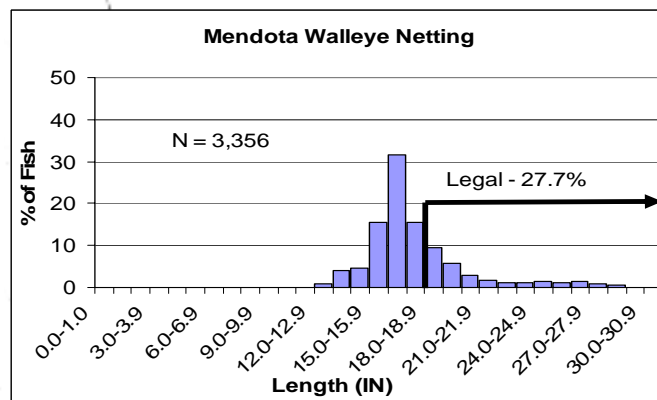
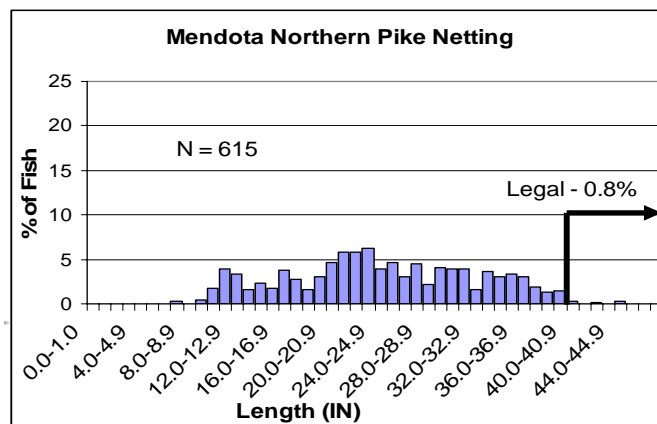
Total captured: 171
Average Length: 20.65 in.
Length Range: 8.8 - 32.7 in.

Bluegill:

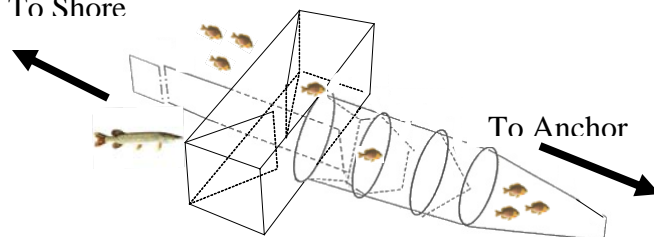
Total captured: 294
Average Length: 7.4 in.
Length Range: 3.2 – 10.1 in.

What this all means:

As a stocked fishery, Mendota's walleye and pike numbers are better than the majority of lakes statewide. Size structure is excellent and harvest sized walleye are well represented. Mendota has a robust smallmouth bass resource and quality largemouth in the appropriate habitats. Perch numbers are still below long term averages; however reasonable year classes in 2000, 2004 and 2005 should appear as harvestable fish in the near future.



To Shore



Lake Mendota Fall Electrofishing – 2005

Walleye:	2005	2004
Average Length (in.):	14.2	14.7
Length Range (in.):	4.0 – 20.2	6.5 – 20.0
Total Captured:	123	142
% Legal (>18"):	18.7	9.8
% YOY* (<7"):	23.3	7.0

*YOY = Young of Year

Largemouth Bass:		
Average Length (in.):	9.0	12.1
Length Range (in.):	3.8 – 17.1	4.0 – 17.5
Total Captured:	80	49
% Legal (>18"):	0	0
% YOY (<7"):	58.8	10.2

Smallmouth Bass:		
Average Length (in.):	8.8	11.4
Length Range (in.):	3.6 – 17.0	2.5 – 18.5
Total Captured:	16	83
% Legal (>18"):	0	5
% YOY (<7"):	37.5	16

Yellow Perch:		
Average Length (in.):	4.1	3.9
Length Range (in.):	3.0 – 8.9	2.5 – 6.0
Total Captured:	98	78
%>8":	3	0
%<4":	76	69

Bluegill:		
Average Length (in.):	4.5	2.9
Length Range (in.):	3.5 – 7.9	1.5 – 7.0
Total Captured:	13	35
Fish / Hour	52	140

Stocking:

Year	Species	Number Stocked	Length (in)
2000	NORTHERN PIKE	8,446	8
2000	WALLEYE	100,122	2
2001	NORTHERN PIKE	6,755	7
2001	WALLEYE	600	5
2002	NORTHERN PIKE	7,500	8
2002	WALLEYE	48,645	1
2002	WALLEYE	52,703	1
2004	NORTHERN PIKE	200,000	1
2004	WALLEYE	54,337	1
2004	WALLEYE	50,000	1

